

August 2, 2013

Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Bruce Lemmon made a surprise visit to the Pendleton Correctional Facility to honor Correctional Officer and Acting Facility Accreditation Manager Laura Rene Bodkin. Commissioner Lemmon along with State Personnel Department (SPD) Chief of Staff Denny Darrow presented Laura with an iPad in conjunction with her registration and utilization of the new innovative healthcare transparency tool Castlight. Castlight Health is a searchable database that enables employers and their employees to take control of their health care costs and improve care. Congratulations Laura for this tremendous recognition and honor! (Photo below)



Miami Correctional Facility hosted its third quarterly meeting featuring guest speaker United States Army Master Sergeant Jeffrey Mittman. A native of Indianapolis, Mittman spoke about his experiences in the military and his adjustment to civilian life. Master Sergeant Mittman has served in Afghanistan and Iraq. In July 2005, he was severely injured by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and left without a nose, lips, most of his teeth and the majority of his vision. He has endured 40 operations and spent the last seven years recovering physically and emotionally. He has received multiple accommodations and awards including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. In civilian life, he continues to receive awards for his public service including American Foundation for the Blind's 2011 Gallagher Award and Osborne Day Award.



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has three new supervisors in the custody ranks. Bradley Hiatt, Anthony Kimmich and Kevin Ewers (pictured left) have all joined the Sergeant ranks at the maximum-security facility. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Frank Littlejohn said Ewers, 17 years of service, Kimmich and Hiatt, both six years on the job, have proven leadership abilities. "They have earned their stripes, the respect of their peers and will enhance the safety and security of the facility."

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted two fundraisers to benefit Special Olympics Indiana. The PLUS unit and 40 Assets Group pulled together to hold a Fire Truck pull fundraiser. 18 staff and 62 students teamed up to pull the fire truck for the fastest times, raising \$537. The students won with a time of 20.37 seconds. The facility also held a motorcycle ride for staff. 15 motorcycles took part in the 120 mile ride which garnered \$200 for the Special Olympics.

Madison Correctional Facility (MCF) offenders stuffed backpacks for the Salvation Army's Back to School giveaway. 264 back packs were given away to local children in need, and MCF Training and Volunteer Services Coordinator Joy Sedam handed out coupons for free haircuts through Madison's Cosmetology program.

Please join us in congratulating the 2014 Leadership Academy cohort for being part of the 7th IDOC Leadership Academy Class. Thirty staff from the Department and other state agencies graduated from the program. (see photo right)

Plainfield Correctional Facility is applauding the valiant actions of Lieutenant Greg Roach and Sergeant Bobby Paige. On their way to deliver a donation to Sheltering Wings, they pulled over when they saw two children walking along the side of the road. Within a short distance of a retention pond, two toddlers between the ages of 2-3 were walking down the side of a busy street with no shoes and no adult in sight. Lieutenant Roach pulled over the vehicle and both staff members began talking with the toddlers. After waiting some time to see if any adults would show up, the Plainfield Police Department was called and the children were taken to the Department of Child Services. A short time later, both children were reunited with their parents.



Two Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) residents joined youths enrolled in the Englewood Christian Church summer camp in cleaning up the area around the church's community garden and building a brick border to surround the garden. The campers participated in seven weeks of camp, learning about the different themes in society such as culture, education, community health, economics, and government, and how each area affects the society in which they live. Escorted by staff and participants of IREF's Straight Talk program, the residents spoke with the campers about the bad decisions they made when they were young and encouraged them to make positive decisions so that they can be helpful to their community. The residents also explained IREF's culture and society, then answered questions about their experiences with incarceration.

PLUS graduates, staff, and invited guests gathered at the Westville Correctional Center (WCC) to celebrate the successful completion of 47 offenders from the program. The PLUS core values were the topic of guest speaker, WCC Therapeutic Community Director, Emily Kirk and two graduates chosen to speak. Following a traditional graduation ceremony, cake and beverages were served, compliments of the facility's Culinary Arts class.

Correctional Industrial Facility Therapeutic Community Director Dale Flemming, Counselor Elnora Schaffer, Chaplain David Smith and Community Volunteer Coordinator Vicki Penny completed a week long PREP and Walking the Line training program. PREP teaches healthy relationships, and Walking the Line teaches communication and fatherhood skills. All of the participants expressed their thanks to IDOC for offering the training and felt the training provided some very valuable information.